GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:38
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS FOR AAY
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding quality of foodgrains being distributed under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are supplied to poor people?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): The Targetted Public Distribution System(TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage and their transportation upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI. The responsibility of distribution of foodgrains through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) rests with the State Governments. No specific complaint on quality of foodgrains distributed under the AAY has been received from any of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, whenever a complaint is received by the Central Government it is forwarded to the concerned State Government for investigations and necessary remedial action.

(c): The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are supplied to the poor people:

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UTs to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UTs that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UTs and the FCI during the issue of stocks from FCI godowns for display at the counters of Fair Price Shops (FPSs).

(iv) The officers of the State Government`s and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as `Area Officers` for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.